

## METHODOLOGY

### Annual Survey

#### Survey Frame and Period

The annual socio-economic surveys include the entire population of RCGL license holders with valid (active) licenses during any portion of the calendar year (January 1 through December 31). Survey instruments used for the 2001 and 2004 annual surveys are shown in Appendix 11 and Appendix 12, respectively. The 2007 annual survey utilized the same survey instrument used in 2004.

#### Questionnaire Design

Questions included on annual survey questionnaires address demographics, experience, opinions on pertinent topics, and typical spending on fishing trips taken by RCGL holders. Question formats vary among three general types.

- a. Questions that requested the participant to fill in a specific number (i.e., age, years of residence, spending, etc.),
- b. Scaled questions that asked the participant to select a box that most appropriately matched his/her level of agreement for a given statement (i.e., strongly disagree to strongly agree), and
- c. Multiple-choice questions that allowed the participant to indicate his/her choice by checking one or more boxes adjacent to the available choices (i.e., point of access for fishing trips, sources of information on fisheries regulations, etc.).

Questions within the first category are examined by two methods: (1) calculation of the mean from the responses given; and (2) categorizing the responses into specific groupings and calculating the percentage that each group contributes to the total sample. The five potential responses for the "level of agreement" questions are ranked from one to five with one representing strongly disagree to five representing strongly agree. Mean rank values are obtained and the percentages that each agreement level contributed to the total are calculated. Only the percent contributions for each multiple-choice category are derived from the third type of question.

#### Disposition of Questionnaires

The disposition of each questionnaire mailed typically result in one of four possible outcomes: (1) returned and usable, (2) returned and not usable, (3) returned by the U.S. Postal Service as non-deliverable, and (4) not returned. Returned surveys that do not contain the